

Charlotte McDonald-Gibson speaks out on refugee crisis >>Pages 10&11

'These stories are a damning picture'



Socialists win seats in Northern Ireland Assembly >>Page 3

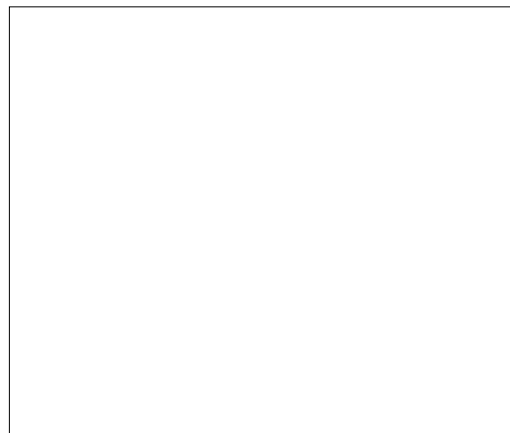
VICTORY!



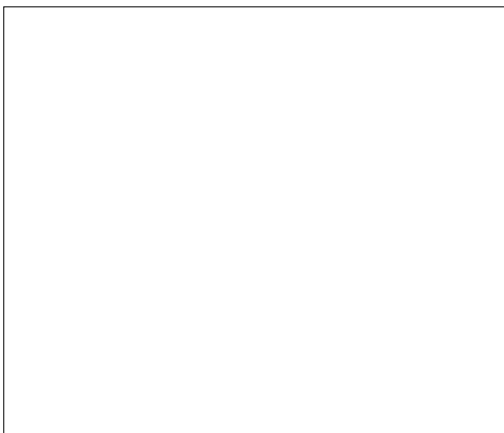
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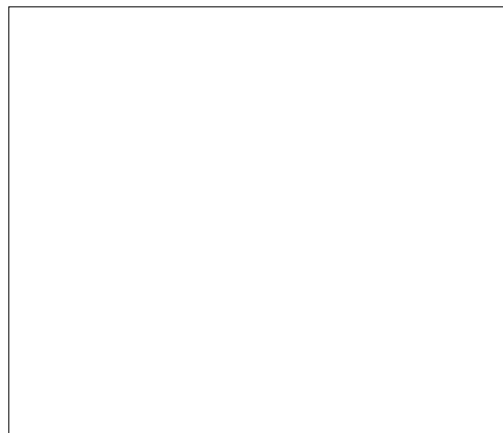
TOXIC TORIES IN TROUBLE



SCHOOLS FAILURE



SPLIT OVER EUROPE



KEY ELECTIONS LOST

GET THIS RABBLE OUT

THE TORIES' splits are our opportunity.

We can force more retreats from the government, such as the U-turn over forced academies last week. David Cameron and his millionaire clique are determined to keep slashing services and driving down living standards for the majority.

We need to seize the time and drive out this rotten government.

>>Pages 4 and 5 Elections show need for struggle against austerity

>>Page 7 Tory retreat on refugees

NUT says Teachers support Junior Doctors

For Education, For the NHS

NUT



LABOUR WITCH HUNT

'How dare they accuse me of racism?'

by NICK CLARK

SUSPENDED Labour Party member Jackie Walker is fighting back against accusations of antisemitism.

Jackie, who is of African and Jewish descent, told Socialist Worker it was time for the left to "draw a line and say we are not having any more of this".

The Kent-based activist was suspended from Labour last month after the Jewish Chronicle newspaper published comments she had made in an online discussion on racism and antisemitism.

Her remarks, made in February, made comparisons between the Holocaust and the African slave trade.

Jackie said she was "shocked" to hear of her



Jackie Walker

suspension by the Labour Party's Compliance Unit.

She said, "I still don't know the charges against me. I've only been informed about that by the Jewish Chronicle."

"If I cannot talk about my Jewish ancestors or my black ancestors without the Compliance Unit forbidding me to speak, what kind of political world are we entering? It's extraordinary."

Jackie is a long-standing anti-racist campaigner and is the vice-chair of Labour left group Momentum.

She has been a leading activist in Thanet Stand up to Ukip. She is also a founder of the Kent Anti-Racism

>>Page 6

Picture: Guy Smallman



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'There is no question that it was arrogant of me'

The odious **Toby Young** decides that being an opinionated Tory wasn't enough to run a school

'It's just one study!'

Downing Street spokesperson dismisses a study trashing **Jeremy Hunt's** claim that more **NHS** patients die at weekends

'There's still a few more tickets to sell'

Prince Harry's emotional speech to open the **Invictus Games**

'We are only secure because wider Europe is secure'

Former head spy **John Sawers** explains how leaving the **EU** would stop the spooks sharing information

'John Sawers and I remain politically neutral'

Lord Evans, another former spook, explains the non-political nature of their **Remain** campaigning

Britain hit by plague of toxic caterpillars imported from the Netherlands

Richard Littlejohn finds the latest foreign threat



Blacklisted workers force millions out of the bosses

A GROUP of blacklisted workers has won millions of pounds in compensation from eight construction firms.

The payouts mean that a group litigation High Court trial will not go ahead.

Dave Smith is secretary of the Blacklist Support Group. He called the result "a historic victory for the trade union movement against the vicious face of free market capitalism".

Dave said, "Despite all the denials and attempts to cover up their secret conspiracy, the largest multinationals in the construction sector have been forced to pay out millions in compensation."

The eight firms—Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Costain, Kier, Laing O'Rourke, Sir Robert McAlpine, Skanska UK and Vinci—were at the heart



PROTESTING AGAINST the Blacklist

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

of the blacklisting scandal. They paid blacklisting firm the Consulting Association for information on workers—and provided information too.

Dave described it as a "human rights conspiracy against trade unionism by big business and shady anti-democratic political policing units within the British state".

A hearing will take place on

Wednesday.

Blacklisted workers and supporters are set to gather at the court to make their voices heard.

Workers, who were represented by the Unite union, settled the case after the firms increased their compensation offers. Workers represented by the Ucat and GMB unions settled last week.

The settlement does mean that construction bosses will try to avoid answering questions. But that has cost them.

The total figure for compensation paid out by the firms is estimated to be £50 million with an additional £200 million in legal costs.

Dave said workers who have been blacklisted will continue to fight for the full truth and for justice.

"The firms might have hoped that by buying their way out of a show trial the scandal will go away," said Dave. "It won't."

"These fat cats and their friends in the police took food off our children's table. We take this personally. A few quid and a mealy mouthed apology is a long way from justice."

"The wretches should be in jail."

THE PETROCHEMICAL company Ineos is hiring new managers and scientists with the "immediate intention" of pushing ahead with fracking in central Scotland.

They have licenses from the Tories. But the Scottish government has a moratorium on fracking.

So the jobs might not be that taxing or the moratorium is for the chop.



EIGHT POLICE forces are now probing allegations of election fraud over visits by the Tories' battle bus. Prosecutions should start within a year of last May's election but forces have asked for extra time. If criminal offences are proven, general election results could be overturned.

South Yorkshire Police in Orgreave crisis...

THE ACTING chief constable of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) has called for an "independent assessment of Orgreave".

This follows growing demands for an inquiry into the Battle of Orgreave, which took place during the 1984-85 Miners' Strike in June 1984.

Police attacked picketing miners, then falsely accused them of rioting.

The tactics of smearing miners are similar to those used against Liverpool fans in the wake of the 1989 Hillsborough

disaster. Redacted documents from the Independent Police Complaints Commission show that some senior SYP officers and a solicitor were involved in both the aftermath of Orgreave and Hillsborough.

Dave Jones is the third person to hold the title of SYP chief constable within the space of a week.



He was still acting chief constable of SYP as Socialist Worker went to press.

But the cops are going through bosses quite quickly at the moment.

...South Yorkshire Police in lying crisis

ANOTHER WEEK, another disturbing revelation about South Yorkshire Police (SYP). The force's media officer last week complained that she'd been told to "spin" reporting of the Hillsborough inquests.

Hayley Court was employed by SYP as a media officer in relation to the inquests.

She said she was told, "Your job is to round up the media at the end of the day and tell them, 'This is the line'."

This involved highlighting evidence that suggested SYP failings were not to blame for the disaster.

It also involved stressing any negative evidence about fans.

Court said she complained but "faced criticism" in response and "felt bullied".

She said, "The South Yorkshire Police, having made a full apology for the Hillsborough disaster in 2012, should not have been seeking to spread the blame onto others, and seeking to influence the media to take that line."

"South Yorkshire Police rely now on being a very different force from 1989, yet unfortunately there are still similarities."



'The Truth' shows that Sun columnist lied

THE SUN'S reviled columnist and former editor **Kelvin MacKenzie** has been caught out.

MacKenzie was responsible for the **Sun** front page in 1989. Headlined "The Truth", it smeared Liverpool football fans in the wake of the Hillsborough disaster.

MacKenzie has tried to avoid responsibility by whining that the cops lied to him.

In his column in the **Sun** on Monday he wrote, "Superintendent David Duckenfield had stuck to the line that it was Liverpool fans who forced open the gates."

"I fell for the lies lock, stock and barrel."

Except he knew that police opened the gates when "The Truth" front page was published. The page includes a photograph of Superintendent Roger Marshall. The caption underneath reads, "Opened the gate... Superintendent Marshall."



STREETING'S BLEATINGS

Wes Streeting is nominally a Labour MP. This is an occasional series on his pearls of wisdom

● Brother Streeting tweets, "Politics should be about positive ideas, we need to stop talking about ourselves."

● Wesley reviews his first year in parliament in a 1,314 word Facebook post about himself. He says "I really agonised over my vote on extending air strikes to Syria."

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Victory! Socialists win in Northern Ireland election

by SIMON BASKETTER

WORKING CLASS politics has entered the Northern Ireland Assembly in Stormont.

Socialists Eamonn McCann and Gerry Carroll were elected for People before Profit in Foyle and West Belfast last week.

In West Belfast Gerry topped the poll with 8,229 first preferences—3,500 votes clear of Sinn Féin's top candidate, who got 4,769 votes.

Sinn Féin will continue in government, implementing welfare cuts with the bigots of the Democratic Unionist Party. But this is precisely what has opened a space for a left alternative.

Eamonn said he and Gerry will declare as "Other" and not "Nationalist" or "Unionist" at Stormont.

He was cheered when he said he would be "defending and advancing a woman's right to choose".

People Before Profit also won three TDs in the Southern Irish parliament earlier this year.

Speaking after his election Gerry said, "The West Belfast Rising has begun."

"There is a clear alternative and it's one not based on sectarianism, one not based on armed actions."

"It's one based on people power and socialist politics. Ours is an alternative that believes in standing up to corporations and not giving them a handout."

Empower

"Ours is an alternative that seeks to empower people and not tell them to rely on politicians wedded to the past."

"Ours is an alternative that opposes austerity and seeks to get rid of the gap between the rich and the poor."

"Ours is an alternative that



SUPPORTERS CARRY Gerry Carroll after his election win

PICTURE: PA

organises across 32 counties and challenges the establishment in North and South.

"Ours is an alternative that seeks to unite working class people across the divide."

He added, "History isn't made by people who sit on the fence."

"History is made by people who seek to bring the fences down."

The Republic of Ireland also saw the bosses' party Fine Gael form a

new government last week.

But it only did so after abolishing the hated water charges that sparked a mass campaign.

Gerry said, "There is a spectre haunting the establishment in North and South—and it's based on socialist politics and people power."

"A day of reckoning is coming soon for people who are pushing austerity wherever they come from."

After the count Eamonn said, "We're standing on fighting austerity North and South. We make no distinction between them."

"We're still a small party—we've got three TDs and about 13 councillors in the South. And two members of the assembly in the North."

"It's a small thing but we believe that this could be the start of something big."

Appetite

"There is an appetite for a type of politics which in the past has been regarded as futile."

"We had great canvassers. Everybody was told, when somebody answers the door, what you're to say is, 'We are from People Before Profit, we are neither Orange or Green'."

"I regard our success as a vindication of that."

"What's significant is that over all the years that I can remember, people have said to me, 'all that's fine talking about working class unity'."

"All that sounds good but it's never going to succeed."

"We're not exaggerating what we have achieved, but what we have shown is that it is possible to succeed in politics in Northern Ireland while not identifying with either communal camp."

Eamonn ended his victory speech by leading off a rendition of socialist anthem the Internationale.

For a longer version of this article go to bit.ly/1Zxycju and for more go to peoplebeforeprofit.ie/north

HOUSING

Tories rush through bill

THE TORIES are desperately trying to get their Housing and Planning Bill passed before Friday of this week, when the parliamentary session ends.

The bill will make thousands of people homeless.

Eileen Short, chair of Defend Council Housing, said the government was trying to "ram this through with the minimum discussion".

The House of Lords passed 13 amendments to the legislation last week that would have softened the bill's impact.

The Tories blocked all 13 changes in the House of Commons.

Glynn Robbins from the Unite housing workers branch told Socialist Worker, "We need to focus on the campaign outside parliament."

Defeat

"We need to ensure that it's strong enough to defeat the housing bill even if it passes into law."

If the bill is pushed through before Friday it will still take a year to be implemented.

This is valuable time that activists can use to build local Kill the Housing Bill groups.

Activists protested outside parliament and lobbied MPs and Lords inside on Tuesday of this week.

Campaigners in Haringey, north London, were set to march this Saturday.

Travellers are also set to protest outside parliament on 21 May against the bill.

It would remove an obligation on councils to assess the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Go to bit.ly/21NrPdS and bit.ly/276VMJ for more details

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Sajid Javid plans jobs cull

by ALISTAIR FARROW

A LEAKED Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) document shows that Tory business minister Sajid Javid plans to cut thousands of jobs.

Some 14,000 people work in the sub-departments lined up for the cuts and 40 percent of these jobs are at risk.

The cuts would slash £100 million more than even chancellor George Osborne demanded.

Over 10,000 of the workers are outside London and the plans include moving some

regional offices to London.

PCS union general secretary Mark Serwotka said, "Cuts to BIS and its agencies go against all the government's rhetoric about our economy and the Northern Powerhouse."

Civil service workers in the Sheffield BIS office began a ballot for strikes last week over plans to move the office to London.

The leak shows that the attack will be replicated across the country. Workers in Sheffield must vote for the action needed to stop it.

PCS needs to ballot its members for strikes against the cuts immediately.



Sajid Javid

IN THIS WEEK

1985

Bradford football fire kills 56 fans

A FIRE at Bradford's Valley Parade football stadium on 11 May 1985 killed 56 fans died and injured at least 265.

The stand the fire broke out on had been condemned. Some exits and turnstiles to the ground were locked.



Elections show need for struggle against Tory austerity

by CHARLIE KIMBER

WE SHOULD celebrate Sadiq Khan's election as London mayor. He defied a disgusting racist campaign run by his Tory opponent Zac Goldsmith to become London's first Muslim mayor.

Khan was a right wing Labour candidate. But many people will have backed him last week because they back Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, not as a rejection of him.

Last week's elections underline the need for a stronger anti-austerity challenge to the Tories.

We don't need Labour to move to the "middle ground" as the party's right wing claims.

Many "experts" had predicted that Corbyn's leadership would mean Labour would lose 150 or even 200 council seats. In fact Labour is down by 18 council seats overall, compared to the Tories' loss of 48.

But a BBC analysis suggests its share is up 4 percent on the general election in key wards, with the Tories down by a similar amount.

Struggle

Such figures say the problem for Labour is the right, not Corbyn. The 2012 elections were held in the immediate aftermath of a rise in working class struggle. Some 750,000 had marched against austerity in London and then the 2.6 million-joined the pensions strike of November 2011.

Labour's vote share was down on 2012 when those seats were last contested. But the years of Ed Miliband's leadership and Labour copying many of the Tories' fundamental ideas lost votes. In contrast Corbyn's leadership has led to a limited revival.

The Labour right must also take the blame for constantly assaulting Corbyn and pumping out slurs about antisemitism in the days just before the votes.

However, there are facts that must be faced.

Given the New London mayor Sadiq Khan

BACK STORY

Elections were held in Scotland, England and Wales last week

●The votes were the first real electoral test for Jeremy Corbyn

●The right wing press tried to paint it as a disaster for Corbyn—as did the right in his own party

●But Labour lost fewer English council seats than the Tories and held control of the Welsh Assembly

●The party sunk to a new low in Scotland as the SNP continues to dominate the political landscape

Tories' disarray, and the brutal austerity policies they are implementing, Labour cannot be remotely satisfied by the results.

This is the first time for more than 30 years that an opposition party has lost seats overall in council elections not held at the same time as a general election.

Labour would have done better if its councils opposed and defied Tory cuts rather than meekly implementing them.

Seeing your local council slashing services is little incentive to go and vote.

The key task for socialists, whether inside Labour or not, is to build the strikes, protests and struggles that can give workers confidence to hurl back the Tories' assault. Manoeuvres inside the Labour Party are not the crucial factor.

We need more solidarity with the junior doctors, a campaign of defiance against the new anti-union laws and teachers' strikes to defend education.

We need resistance against racism, pressure to force Cameron to let in more refugees, and support across the trade unions for the 18 June convoy to Calais.

We need a fight-back in the workplaces and the streets to stop the Tory millionaires, racists and hypocrites.



JEREMY CORBYN will survive this round but only a radical shift left can boost his electoral fortunes

Another win for SNP in Scotland but Sturgeon's shine beginning to fade

THE SCOTTISH National Party (SNP) won the Scottish parliament elections convincingly. It now has 63 seats—two short of an overall majority and more than the next three parties combined. Leader Nicola Sturgeon intends to lead a minority government.

But between the six Green MSPs and the SNP, the Scottish parliament still has a pro-independence majority.

The SNP's 2015 landslide general election victory garnered 1.5 million votes but its constituency vote this year was 400,000 less.

Its victory masks big slumps in its vote—by up to 18 percent in Aberdeenshire, 12 percent in Perthshire, 6 percent in Dundee and 8 percent across the North East.

Base

The Tories are in opposition after they picked up 31 seats. They ate into the SNP's traditional base in the rural north east and highlands. But they picked up votes everywhere.

The party campaigned as the



SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon

clearest unionist option and this played an important role in its vote doubling since 2011. But at around 22 percent of the vote, it hasn't even matched hated Tory Margaret Thatcher's vote in Scotland.

The SNP's two terms in government have seen no real change. The so-called "anti-austerity" party has made cuts and its new Tory opposition will make it even easier for Sturgeon to blame Westminster than take the blame for cuts. She is still riding high on the post referendum wave and

picking up Labour's hemorrhaging vote in working class areas. But for some the SNP is starting to lose a bit of its shine.

Labour's manifesto was to the left of the SNP pledging to tax the rich more and fund public services. But no one was listening. It came third for the first time in Scotland since 1910 with 24 seats.

Anger

The Edinburgh PFI schools scandal served as a reminder of the New Labour politics that sowed deep disillusion in its heartlands. The disillusion turned to open anger after Labour's alliance with the Tories against independence.

Many now wonder how Labour can ever recover in Scotland. Some 1.3 million extra people voted in the 2014 referendum than voted in 2016. While socialists should support calls for a second referendum, making it a focus lets the austerity parties off the hook and won't inspire many of those who haven't voted since 2014. The key focus now must be on struggle. **Raymie Kiernan**

Ukip gains are a warning —keep fighting racism

by SADIE ROBINSON

UKIP MADE some gains in local council elections in England. In Thurrock Ukip gained six seats and missed being the largest party in the council by just one vote. In Rotherham Ukip went from 12 councillors to 14, while in Hartlepool it gained three seats.

It has snatched seven seats in the Welsh Assembly—it had none before last week's elections. It is a worrying example of how the anti-immigrant rhetoric spouted by mainstream politicians can boost the hard right.

Claim

Some commentators claim that Ukip is stealing working class votes from Labour.

The evidence doesn't back that up. It's true that Labour has lost overall control of the Welsh Assembly. It is now seeking to form a minority Welsh government.

But Labour holds the most constituency seats in the Welsh Assembly, 27, and has two regional seats. It lost one seat in these elections—the lowest loss of any party.

By contrast the Tories lost three seats and the Lib Dems lost four. Ukip's share of the constituency vote has grown by 12.5 percent since 2011.

There's no evidence



Ukip's Nigel Farage explains, "I'm not racist, but..."

this has all come from Labour. Labour's share of the constituency vote fell by 7.6 percent since 2011.

The Tories' dropped by 3.9 percent and the Lib Dems' by 2.9 percent.

And Ukip's gains are small compared to previous years. In 2014 Ukip gained 161 seats in local elections, taking its total to 163. This time, Ukip gained far fewer.

In Oldham Ukip won two seats in 2014, this time it won none. Ukip hoped to make gains in Bradford and made none.

In Basildon, Essex, Ukip gained 11 councillors in 2014. This time it

gained two. It won 39 percent of the vote in 2014, compared to 27 percent this time.

Ukip may not have won nearly as many seats as it did two years ago. But in many areas it grabbed high votes.

In two Westminster by-elections on 5 May it came second to Labour. In Ogmore, South Wales, it took 16 percent of the vote and 20 percent in Sheffield Brightside.

Campaigners need to remain vigilant against Ukip and other racists.



Protesting to welcome refugees last month

We need a united alternative

THE LEFT of Labour vote was small nearly everywhere.

In Scotland both Tommy Sheridan's Solidarity and the new Rise formation both gained only low numbers. The best result was around 1 percent for each across Glasgow.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) took around 2,000 votes in three constituencies in the city. The results underlined the need for a united left.



Kevin Bennett

Elsewhere TUSC saw mostly disappointing returns. But in some council wards it won more than 5 percent. In the Liverpool mayoral election TUSC's Roger Bannister won 4,950 votes, 5 percent of

the total. He beat the Tory, an independent and the English Democrats.

The best council result came in Warrington where former Labour councillor Kevin Bennett won 921 votes and was just 77 short of election. Kevin was suspended by the council Labour group in April 2013 after voting against the cuts and he left Labour in January last year. See full TUSC results tusc.org.uk

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TORIES ARE IN TROUBLE—STRIKE TO GET THEM OUT

THE POLLING stations had hardly closed last week when the Tories' bitter feuding reached new heights. Their splits and weakness should be a signal to step up our resistance.

David Cameron and Boris Johnson clashed bitterly over the European Union (EU) referendum this week.

On Monday Cameron was reduced to saying that leaving the EU would mean a threat of wars and genocide. The Daily Mail accused him of "an extraordinary escalation of Project Fear".

Johnson said Cameron's claims were "wholly bogus".

Higher education workers have called a national strike on 25 and 26 May. Junior doctors

At the same time former cabinet minister Iain Duncan Smith said George Osborne's economic forecasts were like "soothsayers throwing bones on the floor".

Meanwhile, Osborne was tearing into Michael Gove for wanting to inflict a Brexit "catastrophe" on the economy.

Osborne had the cheek to say, "Some people may think wrecking our economy is a price worth paying but I totally disagree."

These deep divisions mean that, even facing weak opposition, the

Tories are forced to retreat.

Education secretary Nicky Morgan had told teachers she had "no reverse gear" on mass forced academisation. But, under cover of last week's election results, Morgan was forced to ditch the policy.

While the Tories are still determined to press ahead with more schools becoming academies, this is a major retreat from wholesale privatisation.

It should encourage the NUT teachers' union to press on to win more, and for everyone to fight now (see page 20).

Higher education workers have called a national strike on 25 and 26 May. Junior doctors

“**Their splits and weakness should be a signal to step up our resistance**

have paused their action, but there is now a potential for teachers, doctors and lecturers to fight together.

The Tories' disgusting Islamophobia against Sadiq Khan failed to win the London mayoral election last week.

That won't stop their racist scapegoating. But they can be beaten on this too.

The Tories had said it would be disastrous to allow child refugees into Britain. They retreated last week and said at least some would be let in (see page 7).

It's not nearly enough, but it's a sign that the Tories are weak.

The planned solidarity convoy to Calais on Saturday 18 June becomes even more important. It's time to fight, and to push the union leaders to do much more.

And more resistance would also strengthen Jeremy Corbyn against the Labour right.

A Leave vote on 23 June would force Cameron's resignation and would deepen the Tory crisis—socialists should vote Leave on an internationalist basis.

What happens afterwards depends on building the working class fightback. We can drive the Tory rabble out.

SATS FAIL OUR CHILDREN

HUNDREDS OF thousands of children in England faced misery this week as they were forced to sit the hated Sats tests.

Primary school teachers reported that children were in tears trying to complete the tests. One teacher said, "If ever a test was set up to prepare children to fail, this was it."

The Sats are designed to be impossible so that children will fail them. They have nothing to do with helping children's education

or with measuring their abilities.

The Tories want to use the results to define schools and teachers as "failing"—and justify more government attacks on education.

Campaigners inflicted a serious defeat on the Tories last week after they were stopped from forcing all schools in England to become academies.

The Tories are still committed to academies—privately-run schools that are state-funded. They are determined to let the

market rip through our public services and transfer huge amounts of public money to their fat cat friends.

And young children are paying the price. It's good that parents and children struck last week in protest at the Sats. Teachers should boycott the hated tests too.

The Sats are just one example of how far the Tories will go to pursue their neoliberal ideological agenda. The Sats have got to go—and the Tories with them.



ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



EU vote will weaken Cameron's rule

BEFORE LAST week's elections, the Financial Times columnist Janan Ganesh predicted, "the worst for Labour is yet to come". Labour would do badly this May, he said, but would suffer much worse punishment in the 2020 general election.

Then voters will wake up to Jeremy Corbyn's extremism, "dealing the party a rout from which there is no promise of recovery". No doubt there was a big dose of wishful thinking here. Ganesh is an admirer of George Osborne. But in any case the picture looks a bit different now. The BBC's projected national vote share gave Labour 31 percent to the Tories 30 percent if the results were repeated at a general election.

Compared to the general election a year earlier, this is a small rise in Labour's vote share, and a drop of nearly seven points in the Tories'.

These figures mask more specific shifts. The Scottish parliamentary elections consolidated Labour's eclipse north of the border. But it's ridiculous to blame Corbyn for that.

The responsibility lies with Tony Blair's mix of neoliberalism and imperialism, and with Ed Miliband and Gordon Brown for nailing the union flag so firmly to Labour's mast. The Tories' advance makes a certain amount of sense—if you're opposed to Scottish independence, why not back an unapologetically unionist party?

The Scottish result underlines that the old Labour-Tory two-party hegemony has gone for good. The electoral terrain has become a more complex multi-party system.

But Labour doesn't look so badly placed. Its victories in the mayoral elections aren't simply about the deserved drubbing the wretched Zac Goldsmith suffered in London—they underline Labour's growing strength in the big cities.

Phoney

Moreover, now that the hullabaloo over the phoney "Labour antisemitism" issue has died down, maybe more attention will focus what is becoming the real political story of 2016—the crisis in the Tory party.

Margaret Thatcher's spin-doctors put into her mouth the famous phrase, "The lady's not for turning." By contrast, U-turns have become a method of government for David Cameron. Nicky Morgan's retreat over academies is the latest in a long succession—welfare benefits, aspects of the trade union legislation, Syrian refugee children and more.

The immediate aim is to buy peace and maximise support for the government during the European Union (EU) referendum. This is very obvious in the minor concessions that have been made to the trade union leaders.

But the problem lies a lot deeper. Cameron's opposition to Brexit has deeply antagonised a group of right-wing Tory MPs.

Naively they feel betrayed by Cameron's decision to campaign for Remain despite his failure to negotiate the deal he originally promised them—as if he could have achieved that deal or would have gone against the settled will of British capital and supported a break with the EU.

This group is big enough to deprive the government of its parliamentary majority. So they are threatening rebellion on issue after issue, and forcing Cameron into these retreats.

The official line from Downing Street is that things will get better after the referendum on 23 June. I don't see it.

If there is a majority to leave, Cameron is toast and the Tories will find themselves struggling with an enormous succession crisis. They were badly wounded by the inner-party struggles surrounding Thatcher's fall in 1990.

But if Cameron wins, his right-wingers will be even more embittered and there will be more parliamentary revolts. He has said he will retire before the next election, so there will still be a succession battle, albeit at a more leisurely pace than if the Remain campaign is defeated.

So we confront a government that has been badly weakened by the divisions within the Tory party—divisions that may well get worse. The contemptible behaviour of the Labour right wingers and their media allies has masked this, but it will be much harder to do this now.

In this context, Corbyn's biggest mistake has been to capitulate to his New Labour shadow cabinet and support Remain. The referendum is an opportunity to damage the Tory government, potentially fatally. The rest of the radical left, whether inside or outside the Labour Party, need to avoid making the same mistake.



SOME 200 people debated how to oppose the right's attempts to smear the left as antisemitic in London (see box)

Weyman Bennett (above) said that the right were using antisemitism to stop the left, Muslims and Jews from uniting to fight racism.

Suspended Labour activist slams right wing witch hunt

>>>continued from page 1

Network, which has organised recent protests against fascists in Dover.

She said, "To have somebody like me basically accused of being a racist is just phenomenal.

"Not only have I been a victim of racism, I've been an active anti-racist campaigner under the most difficult circumstances.

"After I got over those immediate feelings of just wondering what the hell is going on here, I was actually really angry.

"I was outraged. How dare these people accuse me of racism?"

Accused

Jackie was one of many Labour Party members accused of antisemitism and suspended in the run-up to last week's elections.

Right wing Labour MPs, the Tories and sections of the press used the suspensions to whip up a furore.

They attacked the left for having an "antisemitism problem".

But Jackie said the right are using the accusations for their own ends.

She said, "I think why this is happening is hugely complicated.

"I'm sure there are many other Labour Party members who have said very similar kinds of things to

seem to be quite strong in their support for the Israeli government.

"I presume they thought they had struck gold when they realised that I was the vice chair of Momentum.

"So you can't help but think there is more going on in this than a simple story about racism."

She added, "I don't notice these people on the right of the Labour Party, the Conservative Party or in the media trying to defend refugees' rights.

"I don't notice them trying

to defend black people and ethnic minorities from the right wing protest groups in Dover. Where are they?

"What's extraordinary, is that one of the reasons behind this is not pressure from anti-racists.

Pressure

"It is pressure coming from the Daily Mail and Telegraph newspapers, whose records in stirring up hatred against minorities is well known.

"I'm not saying that everybody who disagrees with me is not an anti-racist or hasn't campaigned against racism.

"But anti-racism is not the prime motivation behind what is going on here."

Jackie also said the left needs to stand up to the right's attacks.

She said, "It's not that the labour movement doesn't have problems with discrimination—it does. It's part of society in general.

"But the labour movement has a proud tradition of defending minorities and can hold its head up in this.

"It's time for us to actually say we are not going to accept the way that we are being portrayed in this."

Sign the petition to reinstate Jackie Walker chn.ge/24AXHQ

what I've said. When you actually read the Facebook post there's nothing antisemitic in there. These jokers

Left defies hypocrisy

AROUND 200 people joined a meeting on antisemitism, Zionism and the left in London on Monday (see picture, top).

Speakers included writer Tariq Ali, writer and campaigner John Rose, and Arthur Goodman from Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

Weyman Bennett from Unite Against Fascism spoke in a personal capacity.

Weyman said that the right were out to stop the left, Muslims and Jews from uniting to fight racism. He said,

"Antisemitism is too much of an important question to not be challenged properly."

The meeting debated how to respond to the right's attacks. Some argued that the left should focus on fighting racism rather than talking about Palestine.

But Lindsey German from Stop the War said, "There is one thing you cannot do when faced with a witch hunt—and that is to run away.

"You cannot abandon the term Zionism. You cannot abandon criticism of Israel."



More online ...

For a longer version go to socialistworker.co.uk

Tory retreat on refugees —push to let more in

Anti-racists scored a victory last week—but the Tories are still on the attack, reports Dave Sewell

THE GOVERNMENT grudgingly accepted an amendment on child refugees into its Immigration Bill on Monday as news broke of the latest death at Britain's border.

A Pakistani migrant was run over by a car while trying to enter a lorry out of the French port of Calais on Sunday night.

He was the fifth migrant in just three months to die in Calais or Dunkirk.

Thousands of people are stranded in horrific conditions in refugee camps in northern France because the Tories won't let them into Britain. These include hundreds of unaccompanied children.

Under pressure, David Cameron backed down on his opposition to taking in child refugees stranded in Europe.

Labour peer Alf Dubs originally moved the amendment in the House of Lords.

Dubs told Socialist Worker, "I'm very pleased. The government has conceded to popular pressure."

The amendment originally called for Britain to take in 3,000 children.

The government shot that down in the House of Commons. But Dubs moved a new version that would allow the number to be determined by local authorities.

Facing anger from anti-racists, a rare show of unity from Labour, and the threat of a Tory rebellion, Cameron was forced to accept it.

Stigmatised

Dubs said, "I hope it augurs well for refugee children in Europe. I'm hoping the whole thing will make refugees less of a dirty word—I don't like the way refugees are stigmatised in the press."

"I hope the public will come around to supporting refugees and this amendment can be part of that."

It's an important victory and shows it's possible to resist. But the fight is still on to get children brought to Britain—let alone to get more refugees, including adults, allowed in.

BACK STORY

The Immigration Bill aims to whip up racism against migrants

- Landlords who let to 'illegal' migrants could face charges
- A new offence of 'illegal working' will allow the state to snatch migrants' wages
- The state would be able to deport migrants who commit a crime—without any appeal
- But the government is to retreat over child refugees into Britain

And the Immigration Bill remains a vicious and discriminatory attack on migrant workers. It would restrict access to services and housing.

Activists, trade unionists and Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) groups across Britain are preparing for a mass solidarity convoy to Calais on Saturday 18 June.

Some 40 people attended a SUTR organising meeting in Manchester last week, many representing trade union branches.

And the local TUC sponsored a small SUTR meeting in Dorchester, Dorset, last Saturday.

A dozen people attended including trade unionists, newly elected Labour councillor Tia Roos and Mark Gage, who is volunteering in Calais next week.

Dubs has joined the line-up of a SUTR rally in London on Wednesday 25 May. Trade unionists across Britain are raising the convoy in their union branches.

Mark Sage from the Unison branch in Portsmouth told Socialist Worker, "We put a motion based on the one on the SUTR website to the branch committee and initially asked for £100."

"The branch committee accepted it unanimously, but decided to give £150 instead."



On other pages...

Greek general strike shakes Syriza government >>Page 8



PROTESTS TOOK place outside detention centres on Saturday. See page 19 for story

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Doctors' rep says prepare for more strikes, as BMA conference nears

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

JUNIOR DOCTORS are set to meet for the British Medical Association's (BMA) junior doctors' conference in London this Saturday.

It will follow five days of negotiations with the Tories over a dangerous new contract.

In a sign of mounting pressure, Tory health secretary Jeremy Hunt agreed to "pause" imposing the new contract during this week. But Hunt laid down strict parameters for the negotiations. He said the focus would have to be on Saturday pay and unsocial hours.

Niki, a BMA rep in east London, told Socialist Worker, "I don't feel like five days is enough to achieve much. The lifting of the imposition is only temporary and they've said the talks will be on Saturday pay, which they wrongly say is the only outstanding issue."

Hunt's toxic contract rips apart terms and conditions, discriminates against women and puts patients' lives at risk. Robust financial penalties on hospital bosses who overwork

junior doctors will go and Saturday would be a normal working day.

As Niki said, "For us it's about the regulation of dangerous hours and Saturday should not be there in black and white as a week day."

Any move by the Tories is a sign of weakness—but now is the time to press home the advantage not break momentum.

More action is needed now, not intricate manoeuvres that demobilise action.

Momentum

There is a real danger that Hunt will use the negotiations to break momentum. Niki said, "It's quite mixed. Some people are downhearted because the action is seemingly having no impact."

"But that's partly because we're in a period of uncertainty. When there's a plan and people know what we're doing, that lifts morale."

"I'm explaining to people that it will not be won until they turn around."

There is clearly a section of the BMA's senior leadership that is nervous about escalating

industrial action, particularly to an indefinite strike.

But Hunt has been intransigent because he knows this is a critical moment.

The Tories want to smash health workers' pay and conditions to soften the NHS up for more privatisation.

Trade unionists need to flood junior doctors with solidarity and build junior doctors' support groups.

Union leaders need to give more than just rhetorical support to the junior doctors.

Niki said, "The Tories could be opening these negotiations up to try and save face."

"The other possibility is that they want to lure us into negotiations and then make us look 'unreasonable' so we lose support."

The BMA needs to stand firm and build on the successful "full walkouts" last month by calling more hard-hitting strikes without large gaps between them.

Niki said, "I myself will still be preparing for further strikes, because I don't think the talks will be enough."

Strikes hit Greece as Syriza sinks to a new low

Big strikes show the potential for workers to smash Syriza's pensions attack, writes Panos Garganas

GREECE'S LEFT wing government voted through pension cuts demanded by the European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Sunday night.

Only MPs from left party Syriza and its right wing coalition partner Independent Greeks backed the measure.

Police attacked a huge protest that was gathering in Syntagma Square outside parliament before the vote, clearing the square with teargas.

Syriza has sunk lower than ever. After it was first elected it made a show of removing barriers from the square so people could protest.

Now it is treating workers the same way the old right wing parties did.

The government's line is that the pension cuts will be the last of Greece's austerity. But the EU is using the bailout as leverage to demand more cuts.

Monday saw the start of a special summit of the eurozone finance ministers in Brussels.

They were expected to call for a programme of automatic cuts to go through if Greece fails to meet its near-impossible budget target in 2018.

There is no guarantee that they will release the agreed bailout funds even if they get this.

Greece has looming deadlines for payments to the European Central Bank and the money isn't there to pay them.

Mobilisations

There were three massive days of mobilisations in the run-up to the pensions vote.

Unions called a 48-hour general strike from Friday. It was solid. Sunday's May Day rallies fed into the evening rally at parliament.

Refugees stuck in Greece joined the protests. They filled several coaches from a refugee camp in northern Greece to join the march in the city of Xanthi.

Their banner said "Open the

BACK STORY

Workers staged big strikes in Greece to defend their pensions

● The left wing government led by Syriza passed its pensions bill on Sunday as protests took place

● The bill will cut pensions, merge some pension funds and increase contributions

● The institutions granting Greece bailouts had demanded the pension cuts in return

● Mass strikes and protests can make the bill unworkable and score a victory against austerity

borders, open the cities". They want the blockade of Greece's borders to be lifted, and the refugees who are in Greece to be accepted there.

The government has tried to force refugees off the streets into camps ever since the EU-Turkey agreement authorising deportations was signed in March.

But to confront the strikes it has had to back down for now on its campaign of repression against refugees.

Some unions were out for longer than the 48 hour strike. Local government workers were already out last Thursday, demanding that more staff are hired to fill the gaps left by years of cuts.

This is a big demand in schools and hospitals and is likely to lead to more confrontations.

Shipping workers stayed on strike until Tuesday morning. Media workers have won a stay of execution on their pension scheme and their struggle to defend it continues.

One popular theme on Sunday was that, even if the pensions bill is voted through, it will remain a piece of paper and not be implemented.

Strikes like these can make that a reality.



On other pages...

Cast Away—life for refugees in Fortress Europe >> Pages 10&11



ON THE May Day march in Thessaloniki last Sunday

PICTURE: WORKERS SOLIDARITY

FRANCE

Crunch time for fight over Work Law

by DAVE SEWELL

WORKERS AND students across France were set to protest and strike against the Labour-type government's proposed Work Law on Thursday of this week.

The law would let bosses undercut national agreements and regulations, make employees work longer for less and let bosses fire them more easily.

The government is expected to push the bill through without a vote to see off a backbench rebellion next week.

Thousands of people had

phone and internet connections cut off for nine hours in the Haute-Loire region on Tuesday of last week. The CGT union claimed responsibility for the sabotage.

Rail workers struck on Tuesday of this week. But the key test could be next week with many trade unionists and activists determined to spread the strikes and extend them beyond one-day actions.

Rail workers and hauliers are set to begin all-out strikes and have invited other sectors to join them. It is crunch time for the movement to escalate if it is to win.



Students protesting in Paris in March

FIGURE IT OUT

4 days of Israeli airstrikes hit the Gaza Strip between Wednesday and Saturday of last week

1 Palestinian woman was killed in the attacks and several more people were injured

25 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces breaking a ceasefire since the start of this year

ISRAELI warplanes attacked Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with airstrikes between Wednesday and Saturday of last week. They killed one Palestinian woman and injured several more people.

Israel appeared to have stopped bombing as Socialist Worker went to press. But Israeli soldiers have continued to

shoot at Palestinian farmers tending to their fields near the border fence.

Israeli leaders blamed Palestinian resistance group Hamas, which governs in the Gaza Strip, for inciting the bombings.

They accused Hamas of breaking a ceasefire that has been in place since 2014. Last week's bombings came after

Hamas fired mortar rounds at Israeli soldiers who entered the strip to destroy tunnels leading out of the besieged Palestinian territory.

But Israel has frequently broken the ceasefire, shooting at farmers, fishermen and protesters—killing 25 Palestinians in Gaza since the start of this year.

Nick Clark

Israel bombards Gaza Strip

The real face of Zionism

WHILE anti-racists came under attack for supposed antisemitism last week, Israel was carrying out air strikes.

It was targeting what Israeli spokespeople called "terrorist infrastructure".

The targets were metal workshops. Two children and a man were injured.

This week Palestinians and their supporters commemorate the Nakba, the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians in 1948. That was the consequence of the founding of the Israeli state.

Palestinian dispossession continues, military occupation of the West Bank continues, military aggression against the democratically-elected government in Gaza continues.

Israel needs to maintain dominance over the Palestinians, to try and make them accept total defeat.

The Israeli courts have consistently decided that discrimination against Palestinians is legitimate based on the founding principles of Israel as a state for the Jewish people.

"Nationality" is a legitimate basis for discrimination, they insist.

In 1988 an Israeli settler was convicted by Tel Aviv District Court of shooting a Palestinian child. His sentence was a suspended jail term of six months and community service.

Solidarity with Palestinians and campaigning for a state that includes Jews, Muslims and Christians on an equal basis in a secular democratic state in Palestine is not antisemitic.

It is anti-racist.

Miriam Scharf
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

We need to put the politics back into the Pride march

SINCE 2004 the London Pride LGBT+ march has increasingly become a parade for its corporate sponsors. It is far removed from its historical roots as a militant demonstration celebrating the Stonewall Riots of 1969.

Attempts to challenge the ongoing injustices that LGBT+ people face are replaced by politically devoid themes such as "Freedom to..." in 2014 and the #PrideHeroes of 2015.

This year the theme is #nofilter asking LGBT+ people to come as our authentic selves.

We will bring our authentic rage and anger onto Pride. LGBT+ people are being hit hard by austerity.

Some 25 percent of the young

street homeless are LGBT+ people. Cuts to disability support mean that LGBT+ people living with HIV are struggling.

The LGBT+ community is not a homogenous group of people, but a diverse collection of identities that is embedded in the working class.

We are calling for a united bloc of the working class, gay and straight, and of all genders to resist LGBT+ oppression and challenge the Tories' austerity.

LGBT+ people are doctors, teachers, health workers and activists.

This year we want to build on the success of previous demos and the junior doctors strikes to show our public services will not be

taken from us. We will defend our NHS, our education system and our fellow workers.

Last year saw people unite at Pride behind the inspiring story of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners.

Since then many LGBT+ groups have sprung up showing concrete solidarity in response to the refugee crisis and rising racism and Islamophobia.

This year's Pride needs to have a strong anti-racist presence coupled with an anti-austerity message led by the doctors and teachers.

Activists need to start building for London Pride and encouraging unions to have a strong presence.

Sami Hillyer
East London

Cameron can't make us swallow this bitter pill

LOCAL PHARMACIES are a vital frontline health service and part of the fabric of communities across England.

Under new government proposals many pharmacies could be forced to close because the Tories think there are 3,000 too many.

This will deprive people of accessible medicinal advice and other valuable support from trusted professionals.

It would also put more

pressure on GPs and hospital services.

In the interest of patient care, I would urge the prime minister and health secretary to abandon their plans that will put our pharmacies at risk.

Petitions are available to sign at local pharmacies and I would urge readers to write to their MP to support the campaign.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

supportyourlocalpharmacy.org

Lying 'living wage' ad is a disgrace

SOCIALIST Worker readers may have seen the new advertisement for the Tories' national "living wage".

It clearly states that anyone receiving the living wage will receive 50p extra in their pocket for every hour they work.

However, this is clearly untrue.

If you work more than



Osborne's 'living wage' will leave people worse off than before

16 hours per week, the living wage will stop you from qualifying for tax credits.

On top of this, income tax and increased National Insurance contributions will

reduce the extra 50p to almost nothing.

Many people will be no better off, or even worse off, than before.

Sean Dungworth
Rotherham

Just a thought...

MP backs cheap rents

NORTH London MP Catherine West told a Kill the Housing Bill lobby of parliament that she supported 50 percent of housing to be affordable in her constituency.

Her Wood Green constituency is in Haringey, where 48 percent of households have no savings at all.

Her comments are welcome.

We need to stop the social cleansing which is a part of most redevelopment projects.

Paul Burnham
North London

Defend the workers' day

IF WE get another Tory government they'll be renaming May Day "Margaret Thatcher Day" I wouldn't doubt it!

Leslie Bridge
on Facebook

Clarity over antisemitism

THANK YOU for shedding light (Socialist Worker, 4 May) on a subject being over-complicated for disgraceful reasons.

Phil Johns
on Facebook

Homeless in Milton Keynes

SOME 70 percent of ex-council flats in Milton Keynes are now private lets, nearly twice the national average.

Homelessness in the town is at chronic levels.

Activists demand the council convert one of its hundreds of empty houses to help people.

Housing insecurity will get worse if the Tories' Housing Bill is passed. We need to build the Kill the Housing bill demo on Saturday 18 June and demand that councils don't implement the bill if it passes.

Kate Hunter
Milton Keynes

Holyrood still anti-Trident

ONE POINT that may get lost in all the news about the elections is that even with more Tories the Scottish parliament is still massively against renewing Trident.

Andy Walker
Glasgow

IN JUST over a year well over a million refugees and migrants have defied border controls to enter Europe. More than 5,000 died trying. There are thousands in detention camps, tens of thousands of unaccompanied children. Every one of them has a story.

Journalist Charlotte McDonald-Gibson tries to tell these stories in her new book, *Cast Away*. It follows the long journeys of five refugees in vivid detail.

Charlotte hopes this can be an antidote to the politicians' poison. She told *Socialist Worker*, "When you read in the media or listen to the politicians there's a real dehumanisation.

"When foreign secretary Philip Hammond uses words like 'marauders' or David Cameron talks about a 'swarm' it takes away people's humanity.

"I wanted to give it back to them by telling their story in some detail in such a way that everyone can see what they are going through.

"I wanted as many people as possible to read it and engage with it, especially in Britain where migration can be a very controversial issue. Their motivation is to protect their families—that's something that wherever you are in the world you can understand."

The book also takes aim at the policies of the European Union (EU) and its member states. Charlotte said, "Travelling around Europe, I became more aware that human rights violations were taking place around the



AUTHOR AND journalist Charlotte McDonald-Gibson (above, picture: David Plus). **Refugees on the Greek island Lesbos last year** (main and other pictures, pictures: Guy Smallman)

EU's borders. And when the number of deaths at sea started to creep up, I wanted to write more about that and sound the alarm."

It was an intense commitment for the refugees who took part, reliving painful memories in depth.

"We spent days and days going through all the fine details, going through photographs and videos, getting them to recall what they felt at each moment," Charlotte said.

Motivation

"They gave up so much of their time because they wanted to tell these stories. They all had the same motivation—to help others in similar situations, and to foster understanding of refugees in Europe."

The Islamophobic backlash to terrorist attacks in France and Belgium has given this extra urgency.

"I stayed in contact with all of them," said Charlotte, "and after each of the attacks they say their lives are getting harder. People think they are linked to the attackers doing this. They want people to understand that they are fleeing exactly this kind of violence."

The main trigger for the mass exodus has been Syria's civil war, and three of the book's protagonists

CAST AWAY



Five refugees shared their stories with journalist Charlotte McDonald-Gibson for a new book to help challenge the brutal border policies of Fortress Europe. She spoke to *Socialist Worker*

are Syrian. These are electrician Mohammed, lawyer and activist Nart, and Hanan who has to shepherd her whole family across hostile borders.

BUT THERE are also sub-Saharan Africans, who many politicians insist are not legitimate refugees.

Heavily pregnant Sina escapes Eritrea, one of the world's most oppressive regimes and foremost sources of refugees. Majid

flees Nigeria—a Western ally often considered "safe"—after a sectarian mob killed his father.

"I selected these five people because they show different aspects of the crisis—different countries and different routes," said Charlotte. "Together their stories add up to a very damning picture of the European response to the refugee crisis."

They make clear that politicians' rhetoric on migration often turns reality on its head. Charlotte said, "There's a lot of arrogance in the EU,

people think we've got this superior quality of life and everyone wants to come and take our jobs.

Homes

"It's simply not the case—people have got homes they've spent their whole lives building up and the last thing they want to do is leave.

"Not one of the five had wanted to come to Europe.

"Hanan, for example, had wanted to go to Lebanon—it's a similar culture, it's close to home and that keeps

alive the hope of return. They didn't want to risk their lives and come so far from home."

THE NEW EU-Turkey deal, backed by David Cameron, has seen refugees in Greece rounded up into camps or sent on boats to Turkey. It relies on the idea that Turkey is safe.

But Charlotte argued, "The deal probably breaks international law. There are convincing reports of

Turkey sending refugees back into Syria, and shooting people at the border. This is not a safe country and the EU shouldn't be putting anyone on a boat against their will and sending them there."

In the book, Hanan and her family face repression on the Greek islands within a few pages of Mohammed almost drowning in the Mediterranean (see extracts, below and right).

For Charlotte these two sides of the refugee crisis are linked.

"We've had Fortress Europe putting up walls and fences for years and it hasn't brought numbers down," she said. "People just go to more dangerous routes.

"In the last few weeks numbers arriving in Greek islands have dropped but that's just sent more people on to the more dangerous routes to Italy. The only solution is to provide legal routes into Europe. No-one wants to put their children's lives at risk while there's any alternative.

"It's right to provide help to those in neighbouring countries. But the only way to bring the deaths down, the only way to stop people getting in the boats, the only way to save lives is to offer another avenue of hope."

Putting up walls and fences hasn't helped. People just go to more dangerous routes

The cop said, 'I will make you go back'

Hanan al-Hasan and her family ran into Europe's border police after their dangerous night journey to a Greek island

It was 5am when Hanan al-Hasan and her family washed up on the rocky shores of Samos island. A voice was yelling at her to get up and run.

Members of the Greek coastguard were on the beach, and they were afraid of being returned to Turkey. People quickly scrambled over the crags and up the cliff, and boulders tumbled around Hanan in the hazy dawn light.

Soaked through with crusting salt water and with sand and fragments of rock rubbing at their skin, all Hanan wanted to do was to get her four children clean and dry before they presented themselves to the police.

Hanan was distraught—her beautiful, healthy family were now reduced to this, begging to be allowed to change into fresh clothes.

"We are Syrian, we will go to the police, but please let us buy clothes," Hanan pleaded in the first shop they found. "Look at us—we are in a bad condition, we are wet and sandy."

Her appeals were ignored. Two police officers had arrived.

A young female officer was shouting at Hanan and her husband Talal, ordering them to leave the shop and get in the police car.

The blood rushed to Ismail's head and he leapt in to protect his parents.

"You can treat us better, you can speak to us better, be cool with my mother and my father," he told the unsmiling female police officer.

But she had little interest in trying to understand what the seventeen-year-old



had just been through. "Be cool?" she asked. "OK, I will show you cool."

She beckoned the burly male officer over, and Hanan thought he would strike her eldest son. She didn't think before placing her body in front of her boy, even though he towered over her now.

"Don't touch him," she warned. "You can make us go back to Syria, but don't you touch him."

The policeman backed down, but mumbled a quiet threat—"You will see, I will make you go back to Syria."

When they arrived at the police station—still in their damp, sandblasted clothes—the family gave their names and had a number scribbled on their wrists with a marker pen.

Hanan was now known as "3", Talal as "1". The family put their wrists together in a circle as another refugee snapped a photo—this was what Europe thought of them.

'All around people were dying'

Electrician Mohammed Kazkji and his friends took a smugglers' boat from Libya to reach Italy

The cry of a newborn baby delivered in the hull of the smuggling vessel was the last thing Mohammed Kazkji heard before the boat finally gave in to the growing swell. He had just peeled off his shirt and slipped a life jacket over one shoulder when the trawler toppled with such speed it was like being sucked into a whirlpool.

A large wave had tossed the boat onto its port side, sending everyone who could move surging starboard to level it, only for the shifting weight to give the crippled vessel the final nudge it needed to turn over completely.

And Mohammed was on the wrong side

of the boat. While passengers on the roof or on the port side were able to use the brief moment of imbalance to jump off the teetering ship, it was the starboard side which disappeared beneath the waves first, dragging the men, women and children down with it.

The cold sea which was meant to carry Mohammed to safety was instead pulling him into its dark depths, the light of the surface quickly receding. One of his feet was tangled in a fishing net, and no amount of struggling seemed to free his body.

The effort to stay alive suddenly seemed futile. All around him people were dying: what was one more life lost when there was so much suffering?

Then Mohammed's mother appeared to him in the water. Peace enveloped him as he looked into her eyes. Almost a year

had passed since he had seen his mother's face, and here she was to comfort her son in his most urgent moment.

The vision in the black sea lasted until the young Syrian felt a force pushing against his leg, and finally he was swimming upwards. He hadn't been aware of the other bodies around him engaged in the same struggle against death, but someone must have shoved his foot out of the netting. With his lungs stinging, Mohammed kicked up towards the light.

As he surfaced, he was only able to take one breath before another force dragged him back towards the darkness.

Arms wrapped around him, as a survivor who could not swim grabbed on to Mohammed's body to try and stay alive.

The survival instinct of the drowning



man threatened to take both lives, and Mohammed now found himself kicking and struggling to free himself from the tangle of desperate limbs. His youthful strength prevailed, and the other man disappeared.

Cast Away—Stories of survival from Europe's refugee crisis

by Charlotte McDonald-Gibson

Portobello books, £14.99

Available at Bookmarks the socialist bookshop

bookmarks

bookshop.

co.uk

0207 637

1848



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

EXETER

Racism, resistance and revolution
Thu 19 May, 7pm,
Exeter Community Centre,
17 St Davids Hill, EX4 3RG

HUDDERSFIELD

Racism, resistance and revolution
Wed 15 Jun, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

MEDWAY

Racism, resistance and revolution
Thu 2 Jun, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

Racism, resistance and revolution
Thu 2 Jun, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NOTTINGHAM

Racism, resistance and revolution
Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
International Community
Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

PORTSMOUTH

Capitalism in crisis—was Marx right?
Wed 25 May, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St,
PO5 4EY

ROTHERHAM

Racism, resistance and revolution
Wed 15 Jun, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist Church
Centre, Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

TELFORD

Capitalism in crisis—was Marx right?
Thu 26 May, 7.30pm,
Carriages, The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

YORK

Capitalism in crisis—was Marx right?
Thu 2 Jun, 7pm,
Priory Street Community
Centre, 15 Priory St,
YO1 6ET

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Where next for the left after the elections?

Thu 19 May, 6pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Can we get socialism through parliament?

Wed 18 May, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Holocaust and resistance

Thu 19 May, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Why are the Tories divided?

Thu 19 May, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane (opposite
the ice rink), BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

Can Corbyn survive as Labour leader?

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

Capitalism means racism, climate change, poverty & war
Is Socialism possible?

BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS
Thu 26 May, 6.30pm,
The Priory Rooms,
40 Bull St,
Birmingham,
B4 6AF

GREATER MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST
Wed 25 May, 6.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Mount St,
Manchester
M2 5NS

LEEDS & WEST YORKSHIRE
Sat 21 May, 3pm,
Swarthmore Education
Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse
Square, Leeds,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: NORTH & NORTH EAST
Thu 9 Jun, 7pm,
Kurdish Community
Centre, 11 Portland
Gardens, Haringey,
N4 1HU

BRISTOL

Antisemitism—what it is and what it isn't

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

Antisemitism, Zionism, Labour and the left
Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St. James's St, BB11 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

A rebel's guide to Marx

Thu 26 May, 7.30pm,
Signal Box,
Glenalmond Avenue (off
Clarendon Rd), CB2 8DB

CARDIFF

How can workers win?

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

A rebel's guide to Rosa Luxemburg

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

Is the Communist Manifesto still relevant?

Thu 26 May, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COVENTRY

Marxism, women's liberation and intersectionality

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DONCASTER

Hillsborough—Tories, lies, cops and cover-ups

Wed 25 May, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

DUDLEY

Ireland's revolutionary tradition

Wed 18 May, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St, DY8 1EP

DUNDEE

Is the SNP a radical alternative?

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON: SOUTH
Wed 8 Jun, 6.30pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd,
Brixton,
SW9 7PH

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Thu 19 May, 6pm,
Central United
Reform Church,
60 Norfolk St,
Sheffield,
S1 2JB



LONDON: EALING

Will the next world war start in Syria?

Thu 2 Jun, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 High St, Acton, W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Are we really living in a post-capitalist world?

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd,
E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

The politics of mental health

Wed 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd (corner
Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: KINGSTON

After Bernie Sanders, where next for the movement?

Thu 19 May, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East,
KT1 2PT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Can the French resistance win?

Wed 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Antisemitism, Zionism, Labour and the left

Thu 19 May, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure Centre
(Room 2), Artichoke Place
(off Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8TS

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Is class relevant in the 21st century?

Wed 1 Jun, 7pm,
Oxford House, Derbyshire St
(opposite Bethnal Green Rd
Tesco), E2 6HG

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Marxism and ecology

Wed 18 May, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church
(Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd,
M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

The crisis in mental health

Wed 18 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT

AND LEVENSHULME

The Paris Commune of 1871—when workers took power

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Inspire,
747 Stockport Rd,
M19 3AR

MEDWAY

The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St, Chatham,
ME4 4BP

NORWICH

Class in the classroom—assault on education

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

PLYMOUTH

Hillsborough—Tories, lies, cops and cover-ups

Thu 26 May, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

POOLE

Nationalisation and socialism

Mon 16 May, 7.30pm,
Globe Cafe,
88 High St,
BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Revolutionaries in parliament

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St, PO5 4EY

SOUTHAMPTON

Generation rent and the housing crisis

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

STALBANS

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Wed 25 May, 7.30pm,
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near St
Albans City station),
AL1 3RD

SWANSEA

The crisis in mental health

Thu 19 May, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

THANET

Antisemitism, Zionism, Labour and the left

Tue 17 May, 7pm,
The Northwood Club,
55 Northwood Rd,
CT12 6RS

WOLVERHAMPTON

AND WALSALL Prevent, racism and education

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St, WV1 4HW

YORK

The Paris Commune—when workers first took power

Wed 18 May, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

NATIONAL

A century of intervention in the Middle East

Sat 14 May, 11am,
Midlands Institute,
9 Margaret St,
Birmingham, B3 3BS.

Stop the War conference
Bursary or Bust march

Continuing the fight to
save NHS bursaries

Sat 4 Jun, 1pm,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Westminster Bridge Rd,
London SE1 7EH

CONVOY TO CALAIS

Saturday 18 June.
standuptoracism.org.uk

Marxism Festival 2016—Ideas to change the world

Thu 30 Jun—Mon 4 Jul
Central London

Unwelcome Tory Conference to Birmingham 2016

Sun 2 Oct, 12 noon,
Birmingham

STAND UP TO RACISM

Conference

Sat 8 Oct, 10am,
Friends House,
173-177 Euston Rd,
London NW1 2BJ

DORCHESTER

What is to be done?

Sat 4 Jun, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club, Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

LONDON

How we defeated zero hours contracts

Forum with fast food workers
from New Zealand & Britain
Sat 14 May, 3pm,
SOAS, University of London,
Thornhaugh St, Russell Square,
WC1H 0XG

Lexit rally—The internationalist case against the EU

Wed 18 May, 7pm,
Friends House,
173-177 Euston Rd, NW1 2BJ

Refugees welcome here—racism out of the referendum

Wed 25 May, 6.30pm,
NUT Building
(Hamilton House),
Mabledon Place,
Euston, WC1H 9BD.

Organised by Stand
up to Racism

MANCHESTER

The Left debate on the EU

With Natalie Bennett
(Green Party leader) and
Joseph Choonara (Lexit:
Left Leave campaign)

Wed 1 Jun, 7pm,
Central Methodist Hall,
Oldham St, M1 1JQ

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Email

enquires@swp.org.uk

Post PO Box 71327,

London SE11 9BW



From no place to our place— five hundred years of Utopia

On the 500th anniversary of Thomas More’s Utopia, Hassan Mahamdallie looks through history at how people’s dreams of a better society were born

FIVE HUNDRED years ago Thomas More, king Henry VIII’s powerful adviser, published a small book in Latin that has echoed through the ages.

Utopia (Latin for “No Place”), narrated by a fictional traveler, describes an island whose geography resembled 16th century London. But its people live together in “the best condition of a society”.

The Republic of Utopia is a commonwealth without private property, where everything that’s produced is shared equally.

The citizens work for just six hours, with the rest of their days devoted to leisure and learning. Gold and silver have no value on the island state and money has been abolished.

More’s reason for writing Utopia is unclear.

Before his execution, he was a key member of the Tudor dynasty’s royal household and hunted down religious heretics.

More had fallen foul of Henry VIII for refusing to recognise the king’s right to divorce Catherine of Aragon.

Humanist

Yet he was also part of a network of European humanist philosophers. They promoted rational thinking against what they saw as superstitious doctrine and abuses of power, particularly by the Roman Catholic Church.

More himself was drawing on earlier imaginings, going back to the Greek philosopher Plato.

The Arab philosopher al-Farabi, born in 870 AD, had also written a Utopian tract called al-Madina al-Fadila (The Virtuous City).

Alongside this intellectual Utopian tradition, there had always been more sensuous visions for a perfect society.

These imagined a paradise on earth, which contrasted the misery of oppression with an unobtainable dream of equality, plenty and fulfilled human needs. An early example



The citizens of Utopia work for six hours and the rest of their days are devoted to leisure and learning



A MAP of Thomas More’s fictional 16th century island The Republic of Utopia (left)

THOMAS MORE (top) wasn’t alone in conjuring up the idea of the perfect society. The Arab philosopher al-Farabi’s (bottom) book *The Virtuous City* presented a similarly utopian vision in the Middle Ages

is the poem *The Land of Cockaigne*, versions of which appeared in western European countries in the Middle Ages.

Some scholars have suggested that it has echoes of descriptions of paradise in the Qur’an.

The poem reflects the preoccupation of the serf against the oppressive and corrupt land-owning church.

Abundance

It is obsessed with having an abundance of food. But there was no prospect of Cockaigne ever being realised.

Only with the rise of capitalism and the working class did a force capable of building the kind of society these Utopias conjured up enter the world stage.

The most famous modern Utopia is the 19th century artist and revolutionary socialist William Morris’s novel *News from Nowhere*. The title is, of course, a reference to

More’s text.

Morris, wrote the novel to “add a little hope to the struggle”.

He called it the “instinctive vision” of socialists, to be able to keep hold of the future goal at the centre of the everyday fight against the system.

The key chapter in *News from Nowhere* is called *How the Change Came*.

It describes the mechanism by which capitalist society enters a Utopia (communist living).

It is a workers’ revolution that turns Utopia from no place to our place.

Utopia

by Thomas Moore (Penguin Classics)
Available from Bookmarks—the socialist bookshop
£8.99

MUSIC

ENGLISTAN

Riz MC
soundcloud.com/rizmc

SOCIALIST WORKER readers may be more familiar with Riz Ahmed’s acting—for example in 2010 film *Four Lions*—than his music.

But his new album *Englistan* shows that his music deserves attention too.

Tracks about racism and fascism are sharply political and stand out alongside social commentaries about growing up in a working class neighbourhood.

Contrasting the everyday and the extraordinary works well. It sets the political tracks in stark relief to other



Riz MC

songs without diminishing their contribution.

The title track paints a different picture of Britain than the false one pumped out by the right. It shows a place where people from all over the world live together and where cultures feed into each other.

Although the album accepts some ideas around nationalism, it is a welcome political addition to the British rap scene.

Alistair Farrow

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **The EU—a left case for exit**
Joseph Choonara
- 2 **The Incomplete, True, Authentic, and Wonderful History of May Day**
Peter Linebaugh
- 3 **A Rebel’s Guide to James Connolly**
Sean Mitchell
- 4 **No Nonsense Guide to Rethinking Education**
Adam Unwin and John Yandell
- 5 **1916—Ireland’s Revolutionary Tradition**
Kieran Allen

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

THE school students' protests last week over Sats tests was widely treated as an unprecedented event.

But a new book, *Schools Out! The Hidden History of Britain's School Student Strikes*, reveals the action is more common than people might think.

Co-author Michael Lavalette told Socialist Worker that he was "astounded" at how many have taken place.

"There's hardly a year in the 20th century when there's not a school strike somewhere in Britain," he said.

"If you look at the history books, that's just not acknowledged."

Students at a Midlands school struck in 2014. They had worn bracelets to support a student with cancer—and the head said it breached uniform policy.

In March last year pupils at Prendergast Hilly Fields College in Lewisham, south east London, struck against plans to turn it into an academy.

But school students' action is often dismissed. Michael said, "During last week's Sats strike children made placards saying they didn't agree with testing."

"And yet it's interpreted as parent activity. There's a tendency to explain it in a way that denies the political agency of young people."

Dominant

The book says there have been school student strikes "for as long as we have had compulsory education". In England and Wales this means from 1870.

But they "jar" because they challenge dominant ideas about childhood and education being a "benign benefit".

From the start Britain's schooling system "was based on hierarchy, complete subservience to the teacher, rote learning and obedience".

Strikes are ignored, denigrated or trivialised partly because they challenge that.

"Part of schooling is about getting working class kids used to discipline," said Michael.

"So when they go to factories and offices they'll put their heads down and do what the manager says."

"Social control is very much part of schooling. And the reaction to school strikes emphasises that."

The book details six major school student strike waves—1889, 1911, 1968-74, 1978-80, 1985 and 2003.

Demands ranged from the abolition of corporal punishment, different flavour crisps in the canteen, to an end to war.

In 1889 children struck demanding shorter hours, no homework and better teachers. They sent flying pickets to pull other schools out.



PUPILS JOIN a national student strike against the Iraq War in 2003

PICTURE: JESS HURO

WHEN WE LEARNED TO STRIKE

Michael Lavalette, co-author of upcoming book *Schools Out*, spoke to Sadie Robinson about the radical tradition of school student strikes and how they have radicalised generations



Michael Lavalette

The Times newspaper found the demands "very shocking" and was surprised at the level of organisation among children. But it still sought to portray the action as "frivolous".

Several strikes called for free education—and the end of corporal punishment, at a time when children could be caned for coughing.

As one Hull striker put it, "We pay three pence per week and get slugged for it."

Strikers in 1911 also called



School student strikes jar as they challenge ideas about childhood

for the abolition of corporal punishment.

The strikes were political. One boy in Liverpool said, "Our fathers starved to get what they wanted."

"What our fathers have done we can do."

Strikes in the late 1960s and early 1970s were "much more overtly political".

Strikers' demands included more democracy in schools and freedom of speech.

The Schools Action Union

(SAU) was set up and started publishing a newspaper.

An SAU branch was set up at Eton where students denounced the school's "dictatorial system".

In May 1972 a series of strikes sparked by local grievances grew into "a more organised, orchestrated campaign of protest".

The government was so panicked that it contacted the security services.

Robert Armstrong, private secretary to the prime minister, wrote of the PM's concern.

His letter warned, "When a similar development occurred in France in 1968, it caused a good many problems and proved very difficult to get under control."

The Home Office "quickly sought to establish what intelligence the security services, special branch and the uniformed police had on the student movement."

Based on the responses it warned that there was "a good deal of discontent" in schools which was likely "to be a continuing problem".

THE government's panic disproves the idea that school strikes are silly or irrelevant.

Yet many continued to dismiss them. Labour leader Neil Kinnock called the organisers of the 1985 strike, against the Tories' Youth Training Scheme (YTS), "daffies".

One Birmingham striker retorted, "We are young people with rights and we do not need crap from quislings like him."

Liverpool student Debbie Riley said, "We're not stupid. If we're old enough to go on cheap labour YTS, then we are old enough to go on strike for our future."

All the major student strike waves took place at high points of working class struggle. All were times of "significant and sustained periods of generalised protest".

The book argues that there was a "clear relationship" between the school strikes and the wider struggle, but that students consciously took action.

Michael said, "School strikes are often said to have been caused by adults or outside agitators. Children are said to have been easily led by Reds, rebels, anarchists or Marxists."

Dave Kersey was involved in a school strike in Sheffield in 1978. He said, "You hear people dismiss school strikes as some form of larking about."

"But school strikes are not entered into easily. They are difficult to organise and they involve a very significant challenge to authority."

They are serious political events."

Michael said, "Schools are not the easiest place to organise. Pupils can be victimised, suspended or expelled. The

fact that they continue to take action is uplifting."

School student strikes also scare the establishment because of the long term impact they can have on those who take part.

Michael said, "All of the people we spoke to said it shaped the rest of their political life."

"Almost all of them have been political ever since. When you break out of the confines of school and face retribution, it can challenge people's thinking about the system."

In 1985 Catholic and Protestant strikers marched together in Belfast in a show of unity. Michael said, "In 2003 you had 13, 14 and 15 year olds talking about imperialism."

Generalisation

"In 2010 school students were asking why the government was bailing out banks when there was no money for their Education Maintenance Allowance."

"There was a lot of generalisation." The book gets across the excitement among students who struck.

Angela McCormick recalls striking in 1985. "As we marched into town I remember my pal shouting at me, 'Do you feel our power, Angela?' And I did! It was a great, exciting feeling."

It also flags up the danger that those at the top will try to co-opt students.

The National Union of School Students (NUSS) was set up in the 1970s.

It succeeded in forcing government ministers to take it seriously.

But this came at the cost of adapting its methods to be more "respectable".

There are also contradictions in how teachers react to students' action.

Several students in the book describe teachers tacitly supporting them.

Yet others were hostile—and the NUT teachers' union in the 1970s opposed students having more say in how schools were run.

Michael said this reflects the changing nature of schools at the time. "In the 1970s there were two types of teacher," he said.

"Younger teachers had been part of the 1960s student generation. They were more open to students having a voice."

"But an older group still



PICTURES: SOCIALIST WORKER ARCHIVE

MARCHING with the banner of the National Union of School Students (top) which was set up in the 1970s. School students in Harwich in Essex protest in 1992 (bottom)

didn't see themselves as working class or trade unionists, but as professionals."

Children have been part of working class struggle in Britain for more than a century and remain so today. For Michael that's a reason to have hope.

"It confirms that the nature and structure of capitalism means there are always tensions that burst out," he said.

"Even some of the most vulnerable—young people in schools—at times take collective action to try and shape their world."

"You should expect that, at some point, there will be school student strikes coming to a school near you."

SCHOOLS OUT!

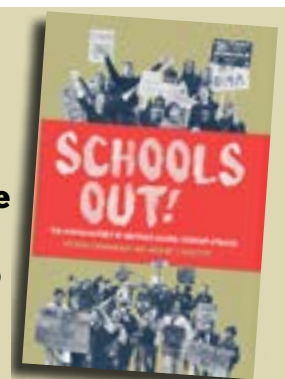
The Hidden History of Britain's School Student Strikes

Steve Cunningham and Michael Lavalette

Out 30 May

Pre-order from Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

Michael Lavalette will be speaking at Marxism Festival 2016 marxismfestival.org.uk



COMMENT

Spy cops are waging a new Cold War against Muslims

The security services use tried and tested propaganda and snooping to divide and terrorise, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**



COPS AND spooks are obsessed with Muslims

BRITISH SECURITY services are recycling Cold War methods in a propaganda war against Muslims.

As a Tory candidate in 1997, Richard Chalk said he was fuelled by "religious conviction" and a "passionate rejection of the dogma and dangerous idealism of a Socialist agenda".

These beliefs serve him well today as head of the Research, Information and Communication Unit (Ricu), the British state's propaganda department.

A new report by detainee rights organisation Cage has shown how this sprawling empire works. It brings together spooks, "grassroots" front organisations and a film company that claims to be guarded by the Official Secrets Act.

Intellectual ballast is provided by Bob Lambert, the notorious spy cop who infiltrated the environmental and anti-racist movements.

His "Lambertism" is a strategy of infiltrating communities. As head of the Metropolitan police's Muslim Contact Unit (MCU), Lambert was tasked with forging relationships with "community leaders" to stop "radicalisation".

Ricu collects information on target audiences, which means "looking at the online behaviour of young Muslims" and "how language used by the government is received and understood". This analysis is then used to pump out propaganda, euphemistically called Strategic Communication (or Stratcom).

In steps secretive PR firm Breakthrough Media. In September 2015 it produced a film called Faith on the Frontline about Asim Hafiz, a British Army Muslim chaplain in Afghanistan.

Its client was the Armed Forces Muslim Association

BACK STORY

Detainee rights group Cage issued a report on the "counter-narrative industry"

● Read it at bit.ly/1TrFQHS



(AFMA), a front organisation set up to "celebrate" Muslims in the army.

We're told, "As well as the spiritual guide for the 650 British Muslim soldiers, Asim's duties extend to gaining the trust of the very people the British troops have been sent to help."

Breakthrough Media has now partnered up with right wing PR giant M&C Saatchi to cash in on growing demand for "counter narratives". Ricu is based on the



It involves spooks, front groups and a secretive film company

Information Research Department set up by Labour in 1948. "It does sound horribly Cold War," one Ricu official admitted in 2008.

After the 7/7 bombings in London, New Labour adopted a double edged approach in the "war on terror". As senior officials said, "We must talk in a language that's not offensive ... the terrorist threat must not be described as a 'Muslim problem'."

Yet according to the Ricu worldview, Muslims at best turn a blind eye to "extremism" and at worst are potential terrorists.

Another front group, Faith Associates, supports mosques and other Muslim organisations against "extremism". Its flagship Imams Online website declares "British Values are Muslim Values".

It's setting up training programmes to make sure mosques comply with the "Prevent" programme.

First set up by New Labour in 2007, Prevent has forced public sector workers to spy for signs of "radicalisation" since 2015.

The propaganda and snooping goes hand in hand with overt, violent oppression, right up to cops kicking down doors and shooting people. The aim is to keep Muslims divided and cowed and use Islamophobia to justify British imperialism.

The Tories' plans for an Extremism Bill could ramp this up further. Only reforgering that powerful alliance of the left and Muslims that opposed the Iraq war can beat them.

Sanders' campaign trumps Trump's

by CHARLIE KIMBER

NO SENSIBLE person can react with anything but horror to billionaire thug Donald Trump becoming the near-certain Republican candidate for US president.

He has fought a campaign based on racism, sexism, Islamophobia and militaristic threat.

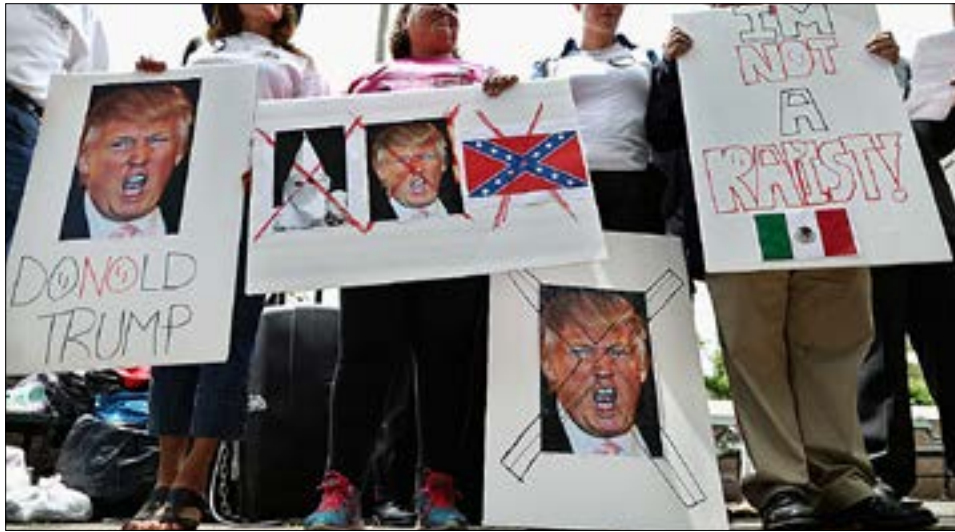
Trump said he wanted "a total and complete shut-down of Muslims entering the United States".

And, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Last week Trump chillingly declared, "Our military dominance must be unquestioned, and I mean unquestioned, by anybody and everybody."

Trump represents what our rulers are prepared to do to defend their system.

But he has not emerged



DON'T GIVE up the fight—protests against Trump must continue

from nowhere. He is in many ways a more overt embodiment of the Republican party's racism, utter devotion to the super-rich and contempt for any sort of real democracy.

It will not take Trump to make the US government the enemy of working people everywhere.

Republican president

George Bush unleashed wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that led to the deaths of over a million people. The effects of those wars are still with the world today.

Bush defended torture and the horrors of Abu Ghraib prison.

He bailed out the bankers with astronomical sums of money, and demanded

workers pay the price.

In the US today, under Barack Obama, a terrifying arsenal of drones and missiles are unleashed to eliminate those decreed to be America's enemies.

The police are murderous and racist. Workers face attack after attack on jobs and living standards.

This situation has ena-

Trump V Sanders

BERNIE SANDERS has won 9.3 million votes compared to Donald Trump's 10.6 million.

Voters from households earning less than \$30,000

● **SANDERS**
18% or 1,674,000

● **TRUMP**
12% or 1,272,000

Voters from households earning less than \$50,000

● **SANDERS**
41% or 3,813,000

● **TRUMP**
32% or 3,392,000

as many people have voted for Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party contest as have backed Trump in the Republican one (see box, left).

And Sanders, who calls himself a socialist, has won more backing from young people and poorer people than Trump has.

The demonstrations against Trump at his rallies were positive, and must not stop. He needs to be harassed and opposed.

But it would be a great mistake to now rally behind Democrat Hillary Clinton as part of "anyone but Trump".

Clinton is also an expression of a corrupt and bought political system.

She will be just as imperialist and warlike as Trump—if not more so.

Trump's rise underlines the need for those who have backed Sanders—and many others—to mobilise on the streets and in the workplaces. Activists should keep pushing for a socialist alternative to the big business parties.

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No defence—why we don't have to make warships to save jobs

As hundreds of jobs building navy frigates in Glasgow could go, and union leaders argue for renewing Trident nukes, **Raymie Kiernan** insists there is an alternative to making weapons of war

WHEN LEN McCluskey denounced “treacherous” Labour MPs last week for attacking leader Jeremy Corbyn it seemed a welcome intervention from the head of the party’s biggest donor.

But the Unite union general secretary never makes a move without careful thought.

The next day McCluskey declared that Labour MPs would get a free vote on the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons later this year.

He added that Corbyn should be “clearer about it”, and that this would mean Trident replacement “will go through comfortably in parliament”.

Like the GMB union, Unite depressingly argues to back Trident to defend jobs.

But many of those who backed Corbyn for leader agree with his opposition to nukes and want to see Labour oppose Trident. Scottish Labour backs Corbyn’s position.

The Unite and GMB leadership are out of step with this mood and that of most of the trade union movement. The TUC opposes Trident and several unions are nationally affiliated to anti-nuclear campaign group CND.

At last month’s Scottish TUC (STUC) conference the GMB attempted to overturn opposition to Trident, arguing that “any self-respecting trade union” must defend its members’ jobs.

Its motion failed miserably. But it sparked debate about defence jobs.

John Dolan, a retired Glasgow Clyde shipyard worker, told Socialist Worker, “GMB is the only union to stand up and say these jobs are necessary.”

Shipyards

Having watched an industry decline, his pessimism is informed by experience.

“In a two-mile stretch of the Clyde there used to be 19 shipyards”, he said, “now there’s two. We need to defend highly skilled jobs.”

Thousands of workers and their families depend on defence jobs. This was underlined by news shortly after STUC that 800 jobs could go at arms manufacturer BAE’s Glasgow shipyards.

The Ministry of



Unite union leader Len McCluskey

BACK STORY

Unite union leader Len McCluskey said Labour MPs will get a “free vote” on renewing Trident nuclear weapons

- It means Labour MPs will be allowed to vote how they like—and that Trident renewal will probably go through
- Unite argues to keep Trident to defend jobs
- Meanwhile 800 jobs at a Glasgow shipyard could go
- Promises to build new navy frigates there are falling through

Defence (MoD) is BAE’s sole customer for its Govan and Scotstoun yards. Delays in the MoD contract to build new warships has triggered fears of redundancies.

Westminster promised to build 13 navy frigates there as part of its blackmail to get out the vote against Scottish independence in the 2014 referendum.

That was then cut to eight frigates last year. Now even these could be delayed to 2017. Such a history should make workers think twice about lining up to call for more arms spending.

Fighting

While socialists back workers fighting to defend their jobs we don’t argue to build warships and bombs. It’s a matter of class solidarity.

It’s not in the interest of workers to defend an industry of mass destruction that is used to slaughter other workers elsewhere in the world.

We argue that military spending is not only dangerous, but is wasteful and should instead fund more socially useful jobs.

Arguing for diversification of defence jobs and defending those workers’ livelihoods is a crucial part of that.

“Our shop stewards have been arguing for diversification for years,” Govan shipyard worker Gus told Socialist Worker.

“Our skills could be put to good use doing steel work for wind turbines, bridges, different ships and a lot more.”

“If we don’t diversify we’ll close down. We cannot rely on Westminster—look at what has happened with the frigates.

“The real story



DEFENCE WORKERS at BAE Systems. Some 800 jobs could go at BAE’s shipyards on the Clyde

here is the yards are antiquated and we’ve been starved of investment because the money has dried up and gone to Trident.”

In October last year the MoD permanent undersecretary Jon Thomson described Trident renewal as a “monster” that kept him up at night. Costs are spiralling out of control.

By autumn 2016 total spending on the initial phase will be nearly £5 billion. Over its lifespan an eye watering £167 billion will be wasted on Trident instead of funding our public services.

Derek Torrie, Babcock’s Unite convenor for the Faslane and Coulport HMNB Clyde naval bases, has argued that “ignoring inconvenient facts”—that thousands of workers rely on Trident—“serves no one” in the debate. He writes in Scottish

Left Review magazine that to do so will “further alienate thousands of workers at HMNB Clyde whose futures many seem keen to debate but few do so on the basis of truth”.

Yet focusing the argument on losing jobs only benefits war-mongering politicians, who can pretend to want to defend jobs too.

Dreadful

Any discussion must also take place in the context of the dreadful effects of nuclear weapons.

Chair of Scottish CND Arthur West told Socialist Worker, “We’re saying to those trade unionists that are sceptical about getting rid of Trident, come and work with us and bring your ideas.

“In scrapping Trident we would have an opportunity to invest in the economy in other, more positive

ways and we have to take the trade union movement as a whole with us in that.”

But in McCluskey’s world fighting for jobs means allying the union with the interests of our rulers.

He doesn’t mean using the collective strength of workers to launch an industrial and political fightback.

For him the “outrage” is that “12 percent of the defence budget goes to sustain US jobs”. The death that is a part of the industry doesn’t matter to McCluskey and his ilk.

If only they’d shown the same determination to lead a fight over steel workers’ or public sector jobs.

More online
Trident—the jobs destroyer
bit.ly/1QfWEmg

IN BRIEF

Journalists defy clickbait and cuts

OFFICIALS FROM the journalists' NUJ union lobbied bosses at newspaper publisher Trinity Mirror's AGM last week. They were campaigning over pay and for "quality journalism", which is threatened by online "clickbait" targets.

It came as Trinity Mirror announced it was scrapping new paper The New Day after just two months. The firm also announced job cuts as Nuneaton News moves from daily to weekly publication.

Drivers deliver unofficial action

DELIVERY DRIVERS at the DPD Old Kent Road depot in south London briefly walked out unofficially on Sunday and Monday over working conditions.

They are technically self employed and most are not union members.

One driver said they are fined £150 if they take a day off sick and are unable to get anyone to cover for them.

Legal challenge to Scottish post ballot

POSTAL WORKERS in Scotland who voted to strike in defence of a sacked colleague last month are having to reballoon after a legal challenge from bosses.

The CWU union members had voted to strike in defence of David Mitchell from Cupar in Fife. He was sacked after bosses accused him of stealing mail.

Car workers take action as talks stall

WORKERS AT Sunderland car parts factory Unipress began an overtime ban last weekend after pay talks broke down.

Almost 400 Unite union members are involved.

Give us a break, say Thomas Cook crew

OVER 1,000 Thomas Cook airline cabin crew began voting in a strike ballot on Friday of last week.

Bosses want to cut their rest breaks to just 20 minutes in an 11 hour 59 minute shift.

This could increase the risk of accidents and damage workers' health. The ballot closes on Wednesday 25 May.

Don't let the bosses sack this lecturer

WORKERS AT Edinburgh College are campaigning to defend lecturer Colin Paterson. He has been sacked for having paracetamol in his drawer and for having non-work-related conversations "in working time."

The EIS union branch has called for a strike ballot.

● Sign the petition to defend Colin at chn.ge/1Xh4yJL

CIVIL SERVICE



OVER 60 Prospect and PCS union members working at the Health and Safety Executive London office walked out for a lunchtime protest on Monday. It was a show of solidarity with a colleague who was

dismissed last week. One Prospect member said, "Our colleague's 'crime' wasn't gross misconduct and the punishment was totally disproportionate." Lunchtime protests were set to continue.

PICTURE: SIMON HESTER

UNIVERSITIES

Lecturers call national strikes in fight for pay

by SADIE ROBINSON

UCU LECTURERS' union members in universities are set to stage a two-day nationwide strike over pay later this month.

The walkout of around 60,000 workers will take place on 25 and 26 May, and workers will begin a work to rule from 25 May.

Sean Wallis is vice-president of the UCU at University College London and a member of the UCU's national executive committee.

He told Socialist Worker, "The most urgent thing now is for branches to call members together as soon as possible. They need to discuss the arguments about the dispute and get organised for

picketing. It's a call for every activist to pull their finger out."

The UCU has rejected a 1.1 percent pay offer from employers. Workers have suffered real terms pay cuts of 14.5 percent since 2009.

The strike will include teaching staff, administrators, IT workers and library staff.

Workers voted for strikes by over 65 percent on a 35.5 percent turnout. UCU general secretary Sally Hunt said workers had "been left with no alternative".

Sean said, "People were heartened by the strength of the result. There is some distrust of the bureaucracy, especially after the 2011 pensions dispute.

"So the result shows a real

desire to fight."

The union could call further action in June and July if no agreement is reached. It is also considering calling action in August to coincide with the release of A Level results.

Sean said that a key element of the dispute is challenging gender inequality in pay and casualisation of contracts.

"Some women just don't get promoted because they would then have to be paid more," he said. "Universities are also sacking permanent staff and bringing in more casual contracts. It's driven by the market.

"Students pay £9,000 fees but more than £4,000 goes on things like buildings.

Our strike can have a big political impact."

LONDON MET

Defend union activists from sack threat

SOME 50 lecturers met in London on Wednesday of last week to discuss building the fight against compulsory redundancies at London Metropolitan University.

Around 30 were from London Met, where bosses are trying to impose compulsory redundancies on union reps and activists.

They have targeted UCU branch chair Mark Campbell and branch secretary David Hardman. Christina Paine and Monica Mottin, two UCU branch officers and hourly paid lecturers, also face redundancy.

A petition against the attacks gathered nearly 1,400 signatures in a few days, including from UCU



Don't sack Mark and David

general secretary Sally Hunt and president Liz Lawrence.

UCU's national executive committee on Friday of last week unanimously resolved to "consider London Met to be a local dispute of national importance".

It promised to "mount a national campaign in support of London Met workers."

The branch has also

written an open letter to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and new London mayor Sadiq Khan asking for their support. Corbyn is the local MP and has shown his support on a number of London Met picket lines and protests over the years.

The activists' meeting last week, called at short notice, showed the strength of feeling. The national union has pledged its support. UCU members at London Met should meet and call for a strike ballot to stop the redundancies and defend education.

● Sign the petition at bit.ly/1XgEkOg and go to uculondonmet.wordpress.com for updates

TRADE UNION BILL

>>>continued from page 20
lobbying politicians can achieve.

And it's true the Tories backed off making every member of a trade union with a political fund opt in instead of opt out of it. But after a 12-month "transition period" new members will have to opt in, and any trade unionist whose union creates a political fund after this amount of time will have to do the same.

The Tories abandoned plans to ban union subscriptions via payroll—known as check-off—provided the union pays for processing costs. Many unions already do this.

Plans to limit facility time and the amount of money spent on it by public sector employers are to be delayed for three years.

Finally the Certification Officer's (CO) powers have been expanded. This ranges from requiring unions to annually report on all industrial action taken by its members to accounting for spending from unions' political funds. The CO has new powers to investigate unions and impose fines.

The Tories' concessions were almost exactly as predicted by a leak to Socialist Worker in February.

The Tories want union leaders to police strikes

instead of leading them.

What happens when union leaders are not confident of reaching the new thresholds is shown by the latest rotten pay deal for council workers in England and Wales.

The largest union by far, Unison, received a clear message from members to reject the employers' offer. But the bureaucracy went over their heads and accepted it.

None of the local government strikes this century would have met the new thresholds.

Unite union leader Len McCluskey's claim that "our movement's determination has wrung significant concessions from the government" ring hollow.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady was "pleased" to get the minor changes. But the TUC's campaign to "protect the right to strike" has fallen well short of its stated aim.

O'Grady said, rightly, that "The history books will show that the government's first major act of this parliament has been to attack the right to strike."

But they will also show that the union leaders' campaign to oppose it has been a dismal failure.

Now we need to prepare to defy the new laws.

COLLEGES

Parents join lively pickets

PRESTWICH ARTS College teachers in Manchester began a three-day strike on Tuesday of this week against compulsory redundancies.

NUT union members at the college had met and voted unanimously to reject employers' "final offer" of two compulsory redundancies instead of four.

The walkout follows a two-day strike last Wednesday and Thursday, which saw up to 40 people join the picket line on Wednesday.

All of the NUT union

members at the school supported the strike, as did one trainee teacher.

Parents, local people and some students joined the lively picket. Some had been active in a campaign to save the school from closure ten years ago.

There were speeches about the anti-trade union laws and the recent Chicago teachers' strike.

Adam Rose

● Send messages of support to roywilkes59@me.com and messages of protest to office@prestwich.bury.sch.uk

GREENWICH

TEACHERS AT John Roan School in Greenwich, have won their dispute over cuts.

The NUT union members suspended a two-day strike set to begin on Wednesday of this week.

They beat a restructuring that would have led to job

losses, course cuts and higher workloads.

Workers struck for 24 hours last week, and two days the week before.

The NUT branch said the result showed that "taking action can deliver real gains in our schools".

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

SECONDARY school teachers have voted overwhelmingly to settle their dispute with West Dunbartonshire council.

The EIS Scottish education union members voted by 86 percent to accept a new offer from council bosses on a turnout of over 83 percent.

After six days of strikes

workers have pushed back some of the proposed cuts to principal teacher posts.

EIS hailed the "hard won result".

It means that subject principal teachers will be reduced but not removed.

But workers in pastoral care still face job losses and a higher workload.

MUSEUM WORKERS

Miners' flying picket lifts museum strike

by NICK CLARK

NATIONAL MUSEUM Wales bosses threatened to call the police against striking workers in south Wales last week.

Workers at the Big Pit National Coal Museum were accused of "secondary picketing" after joining a picket outside the National Museum in Cardiff.

PCS union members at the National Museum Wales' sites have been on all out strike since the end of last month to defend their weekend pay.

The strike is affecting museum sites across Wales and has caused some to close completely—including Big Pit which is staffed by former miners.

Peter Broome, one of the Big Pit workers, told Socialist Worker, "About 15 to 20 of us had gone to the Cardiff museum and the museum at St Fagans.

Property

"Management came out and told us to get off their property, and they did the same in Cardiff.

"They tried to say we were secondary picketing—we're not because we're part of the same branch—and threatened to call the police." He



PICKETING THE National Museum Wales site in Cardiff

PICTURE: MARIANNE OWENS

added, "It shows we've got them running scared. When we turn up on the picket line it gives the other strikers encouragement."

The strikers have been fighting against bosses' plans to scrap weekend premium payments for over two years.

Talks between the PCS and bosses have been taking place. As Socialist Worker went to press strikers were waiting for Welsh Labour first minister Carwyn Jones to keep his

promise to intervene.

Jones said the Welsh government would intervene after last week's elections.

Peter said, "Jones did promise to step in, but he didn't say which side he would step in on."

Strikers were set to lobby the Senedd—the Welsh Assembly building—in Cardiff this Wednesday.

And they have been collecting money for the strike on picket lines, in town

centres and outside football and rugby matches.

Solidarity and donations are crucial to making sure the strikers win.

●London solidarity meeting 12 May, 6.30pm Quaker Meeting House, WC2N 4EA Bank: Unity Trust Bank. Account name: PCS Amgueddfa Cymru 107006 Branch Hardship Fund Account number: 20364700 Sort code: 60-83-01 or via Pay Pal bit.ly/26eNhwq

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Unions slam council's plan to 'bribe' Glasgow workers

UNIONS HAVE accused Labour-run Glasgow City Council bosses of "bribery" over an offer to buy off workers fighting attacks on their terms and conditions.

Some 2,500 workers in the Unison and GMB unions are currently balloting for strikes following the council's latest cuts announcement.

The key services staff are being asked to forego double time pay for working public holidays in return for £800.

The plan to halve the number of public holidays means a direct pay cut for some workers, but it also affects council workers across the board.

Some 4,000 Unison members voted for council-wide action in a consultative ballot.

They are expected to be



Janitors protest in Glasgow

balloted for strikes soon. And janitors working for council firm Cordia struck again last week for three days.

The Unison union is demanding equal pay to that received by other council workers with similar duties.

The janitors were set to escalate their dispute next week with a five-day walkout from Monday.

CLIMATE CHANGE



Marching backwards down Whitehall

Creative protest highlights Tories' climate hypocrisy

by DAVE SEWELL

AROUND 500 people marched backwards down Whitehall last Sunday to highlight the Tories going backwards on climate policy.

It was called by the Campaign against Climate Change (CCC) to mark one year since the Tories were elected.

Suzanne Jeffery, the CCC chair, told Socialist Worker, "In just a year they've systematically dismantled policies that were steps towards dealing with climate change.

"The Tories' environmental policies are just like their austerity policies. Only the tiny minority benefit while ordinary people suffer."

Other protests took place in cities including Manchester and Bristol. In Nottingham 50 protesters walked backwards to business minister Anna Soubry's constituency office.

In London campaigners marched chanting "Save our planet".

Green Party leader Natalie Bennett and Labour shadow environment minister Barry Gardiner were among the speakers at the closing rally.

Asad Rehman from Friends of the Earth said, "Climate injustices have names and addresses, some of them right here in London.

"They are our corporations, our banks, and of course our governments."

Thanks to Richard Buckwell

●More on socialistworker.co.uk

IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Protests demand an end to deportation of refugees

ANTI-RACISTS targeted immigration detention centres from Scotland to northern France last Saturday.

The day of action was called by the Movement for Justice and backed by other groups.

Hundreds gathered at the Yarl's Wood detention centre for women and families in Bedfordshire.

Veronica had been detained in Yarl's Wood in March when the last protest there took place.

Now protesting outside she told Socialist Worker, "The protests let us know we're not alone, they give us hope to fight back too."

Some 250 people joined a protest outside Scotland's only detention centre at Dungavel.

Meanwhile 80 protesters

gathered outside Morton Hall detention centre in Lincolnshire and over 40 protested outside Campsfield centre in Oxfordshire.

In northern France around 40 people rallied outside the Coquelles detention centre near Calais.

They wanted to support refugees and defy a protest ban. Cops ordered the protest to disperse and drove those who didn't comply into a car park further away.

Other protesters targeted centres including Colnbrook and Harmondsworth near London's airports.

All the detention centres should be shut down, the detainees freed and the refugees in Calais welcomed into Britain.

Josh Brown, Neil Terry, Pat Carmody and Sammy Hillyer

●More on socialistworker.co.uk

TSSA UNION CONFERENCE

THE TSSA union conference in Eastbourne took place in the aftermath of last week's elections. Delegates backed motions supporting Jeremy Corbyn against the right.

They also backed remaining in the European Union by two to one.

Rejecting the right's

attempts to smear the left as antisemitic, delegates reiterated their solidarity for Palestine.

TSSA head Manuel Cortez said, "I used to believe in a two state solution. Having seen the scale of settlements, I no longer think this is possible."

ANTI-FASCISM

Nazi protests humiliated

ANTI-RACISTS humiliated fascists in Portsmouth last Saturday.

Fascists under the name South Coast Resistance had threatened to hold an anti-refugee protest.

They mustered around two dozen people, Around 150 joined a counter-protest called by Unite Against Fascism and Stand Up To Racism.

■THE FASCIST North East Infidels plans to protest in Byker, Newcastle, this Saturday. The Newcastle Unites group plans a counter-protest.

■ANTI-FASCISTS in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, have called a protest against the Islamophobic Pegida group

for Saturday 4 June.

Pegida has called a "Silent Walk" in Rotherham on the day. It is one of several racist groups that has tried to use a sexual exploitation scandal in the town to whip up racism and Islamophobia.

Fascist mobilisations create a climate where racists feel more confident to go on the offensive.

Muslims have reported an increase in attacks and harassment. A jury earlier this year found two men guilty of the racist killing of pensioner Mushin Ahmed.

A big protest against Pegida will show the racists they are not welcome

●Assemble in Rotherham town centre at 12 noon. Go to Rotherham UAF on Facebook for more details.

TEACH TORIES A PAINFUL LESSON

by SADIE ROBINSON

THE TORIES last week withdrew a plan to force every school in England to become an academy by 2022. It was a humiliating defeat and a victory for everyone who has fought—but campaigners are clear that the fight isn't over.

And crucially the NUT union still plans to ballot for strikes over the impact of the government's education policies later this month.

Kauser Jan is an NUT rep and assistant head teacher in Leeds. She told Socialist Worker, "This is a U-turn, but it's not a complete one."

"Education secretary Nicky Morgan still wants all schools to become academies—that's clearly her agenda."

"We basically have a business model being enforced on children."

Morgan still hopes to push privatisation and cuts but in a less confrontational way. As she put it, "Better to have reforms than have none at all."

NUT deputy general secretary Kevin Courtney told



TEACHERS MARCHING against forced academies in London in March

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Socialist Worker, "The Tories still plan to turn schools they say are coasting or failing into academies. They still plan to make huge funding cuts."

"Our campaign must continue."

The ballot will begin on 23 May and close on 22 June. The first strike is expected to take place in the first week of July.

Unfortunately the ballot will not include NUT

members in sixth forms, as a number of colleges will be on holiday at the time of the strike. However the union has said it will ballot sixth form members in the autumn.

Teachers are continuing

to hold big meetings across England to build the ballot.

Jon is a supply teacher and NUT activist in Essex. He said a meeting in Mid-Essex on Monday of this week was "the biggest I have known".

He added, "It was really optimistic and positive. There was a sense of anger and that things can change."

Some commentators said Morgan's change of tack was due to opposition among Tories. But the crucial factor was the widespread anger among ordinary people.

Alex Kenny, a member of the NUT's national executive committee (NEC), said, "It's a victory for campaigning."

Primary school teacher Jess Edwards is also on the NEC. "This U-turn shows our strength and that we can win," she told Socialist Worker.

"But in Lambeth we face funding cuts of nearly 20 per cent. We should keep fighting until we stop the Tories attacking education."

Kauser Jan agreed. "There's a lot of unrest about what they are doing to education."

"In Leeds 92 per cent of local authority run schools are rated as good or outstanding—compared to 78 per cent of academies."

"The ballot is important. We need to put children at the heart of education."

Draconian Trade Union Act could have been stopped and must be defied

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

THE TORIES' Trade Union Act 2016 was given royal approval last week and Britain's anti-union laws got even more restrictive.

Despite some concessions, bosses were cock-a-hoop. The law makes it harder for workers to win a legal mandate for action—and easier for bosses to have them overturned.

The law will not come into force immediately. Last summer the government said it could take two months after royal assent. Laws allowing agency workers to replace strikers are



Union leaders Len McCluskey and Frances O'Grady

not part of this act and still have to go through parliament.

Under the new act, if you want to strike legally there must be 50 per cent turnout in the ballot. With "important public services" workers, 40 per cent of those eligible to vote must back a strike for it to be legal.

These areas include fire, health, education, transport, border security and nuclear decommissioning.

The Tories made one concession here, removing a reference to support workers in these services. But support workers could still have restrictions imposed

depending on their role.

The notice period for strikes must be extended from seven days to 14 unless bosses give their agreement.

A ballot will only be valid for six months. Although this is increased by two months from the original bill's proposal, there previously was no limit. It can be extended to nine months—if bosses agree.

Proposals that bosses, cops and the Certification Officer be given a full plan of picketing, protests and social media campaigns have been dropped.

Requiring a picket line "supervisor" to wear "a badge, armband or other

item" was seemingly too prescriptive. But they still must wear "something that readily identifies" them.

This does nothing to address fears that bosses could use this to victimise trade union activists.

New provisions don't apply to ballots that have already opened before they come into force.

MPs watered down the Lords' amendment to commission a "review" into electronic balloting. This now requires the minister to publish only a response to it, rather than a strategy to roll it out.

Concessions over political fund rules are supposedly proof of what >>>continued on page 18